

350 μm OBSERVATIONS OF LOCAL LUMINOUS INFRARED GALAXIES AND THE TEMPERATURE DEPENDENCE OF THE EMISSIVITY INDEX

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ABSTRACT

We report 350 μm observations of 18 nearby luminous infrared galaxies (LIRGs) using the Submillimeter High Angular Resolution Camera II (SHARC-II) mounted on the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) 10.4 m telescope. Combining our 350 μm flux measurements with the existing far-infrared (FIR) and submillimeter data, we fit a single-temperature model to the spectral energy distributions (SEDs) and find the dust temperatures, emissivity indices, and FIR luminosities having sample medians of $T_d = 39.4 \pm 7.9$ K, $\beta = 1.6 \pm 0.3$, and $L_{\text{FIR}} = 10^{11.2 \pm 0.6} L_\odot$. An empirical inverse T_d - β correlation, best described by $T_d = (9.86 \times 10^9)^{1/(4.63+\beta)}$, is established for the local LIRG sample, which we argue can be explained by the intrinsic interdependence between the dust temperature and grain emissivity index as physical parameters, as well as variations in grain properties in the interstellar medium (ISM).

Subject headings: dust, extinction — infrared: galaxies — submillimeter

1. INTRODUCTION

Interstellar dust grains are small particles (~ 0.01 – $0.1 \mu\text{m}$) that sparsely populate the ISM. Although interstellar dust accounts for only a very small fraction of the total mass in a galaxy, it plays critical roles in galaxy formation and evolution. Dust grains absorb strongly in the ultraviolet (UV) and optical, leading to a significant fraction of stellar radiation within a galaxy being absorbed. The warm grains subsequently emit strongly in the far-infrared/submillimeter (FIR/submm), effectively downconverting the electromagnetic energy in various astrophysical environments. Observations of dust emission at FIR and submillimeter wavelengths are crucial in probing physical conditions and star formation activity.

Emission and absorption-line features are generally weak in the FIR/submm (Blain et al. 2003), leading to smooth FIR/submm SEDs dominated by dust thermal continuum emission. However, modeling of the FIR/submm SEDs observed in astronomical objects is far from trivial, as the observed emission spectrum is a complex function of radiative transfer as well as distributions in grain properties, such as composition, size, and shape, that affect the way dust absorbs and emits radiation. In the simple case of a uniform grain population, dust thermal emission is well approximated by a graybody (modified blackbody) function (Hildebrand 1983)

$$S_\nu = \Omega B_\nu(T_d) Q_\nu, \quad (1)$$

where T_d is the dust temperature, and Q_ν is the absorption coefficient. Equation (1) implicitly incorporates Kirchhoff's law, which ensures the equality between the emissivity and the absorption coefficient at all frequencies. In the FIR/submm, $Q_\nu = Q_0(\nu/\nu_0)^\beta$, where Q_0 is the absorption coefficient normalized at some reference frequency ν_0 , and β is the emissivity index.¹ There are more elaborate FIR/submm SED models that attempt to account for multiple dust components and general optical depths. However, the applications of such complex models are impractical when the frequency sampling of the SED is limited. More importantly, Blain et al. (2003) show that the added complexity, even if fea-

sible, generally does not lead to appreciable differences in constraining the observed FIR/submm SEDs. Note that the SED parameters estimated by adopting the single-temperature SED model are *effective*, brightness-weighted average values from complex mixtures of dust grains with different temperatures, properties, and optical depths in the ISM.

Dust temperature profiles vary significantly for grain populations with distinctly different radii (i.e., a few submicrons vs. tens of angstroms). The very small grains ($a \leq 50 \text{ \AA}$) undergo large temperature fluctuations on absorption of a photon (Sellgren et al. 1985), while the larger “standard” grains reach equilibrium temperatures, as determined by thermal equilibrium between absorption of UV/optical photons and emission of FIR/submm photons (Greenberg 1978), i.e.,

$$\int_{\text{UV/optical}} \pi a^2 Q_\nu c u_\nu d\nu = 4\pi \int_{\text{FIR/submm}} B_\nu(T_d) \pi a^2 Q_\nu d\nu, \quad (2)$$

where u_ν is the energy density of the incident radiation field.

To derive the exact solution to equation (2), one would need to have accurate knowledge about the actual Q_ν values at all frequencies, information that is lacking at present. At optical wavelengths we know Q_ν is relatively constant and near unity, and it is generally assumed that on average $Q_\nu = 0.5$ in the UV/optical in the numerical integration of the left-hand side of equation (2) (Martin 1978). While on the right-hand side of equation (2), $Q_\nu = Q_0(\nu/\nu_0)^\beta$ (by the definition of the emissivity index β) at FIR/submm wavelengths. For a uniform grain population we thus have the approximate relation

$$T_d \propto \left(\frac{F}{Q_0} \right)^{1/(4+\beta)}, \quad (3)$$

where F is the integrated incident flux defined as $F \equiv \int_{\text{UV/optical}} c u_\nu d\nu$, characterizing the strength of the incident radiation field.²

² $F = (8\pi h \nu_0^4 / c^2) Q_0 (k T_d / h \nu_0)^{4+\beta} \Gamma(4+\beta) \zeta(4+\beta)$, where $\Gamma(z) = \int_0^\infty t^{z-1} e^{-t} dt$ and $\zeta(s) = 1/\Gamma(s) \int_0^\infty (t^{s-1})/(e^t - 1) dt$ are the gamma and Riemann ζ functions, respectively. This formula is equivalent to that given by De Breuck et al. (2003).

¹ A blackbody has absorption coefficient $Q_\nu = 1$ and emissivity index $\beta = 0$ at all frequencies.

TABLE 1
THE LOCAL LIRG SAMPLE SELECTED FOR SHARC-II OBSERVATIONS

Source Name	R.A. (J2000)	Decl. (J2000)	z	S_{60} (Jy)	S_{100} (Jy)
NGC 520.....	01 24 35.1	+03 47 33	0.007609	30.37	46.15
NGC 1614.....	04 33 59.8	−08 34 44	0.015938	33.02	34.35
NGC 2339.....	07 08 20.5	+18 46 49	0.007358	18.45	31.46
NGC 2388.....	07 28 53.4	+33 49 09	0.013790	17.03	25.33
NGC 2623.....	08 38 24.1	+25 45 17	0.018463	23.80	26.66
UGC 5101.....	09 35 51.6	+61 21 11	0.039390	12.24	20.25
NGC 4102.....	12 06 23.1	+52 42 39	0.002823	47.04	73.84
NGC 4194.....	12 14 09.6	+54 31 36	0.008359	24.09	26.06
NGC 4418.....	12 26 54.6	−00 52 39	0.007268	45.58	31.99
Mrk 231.....	12 56 14.2	+56 52 25	0.042170	33.28	30.29
NGC 4818.....	12 56 48.9	−08 31 31	0.003552	20.32	26.72
NGC 5135.....	13 25 44.0	−29 50 01	0.013716	16.93	30.72
Mrk 273.....	13 44 42.1	+55 53 13	0.037780	23.09	21.97
NGC 6000.....	15 49 49.5	−29 23 13	0.007315	36.48	51.76
NGC 6240.....	16 52 58.9	+02 24 03	0.024480	22.87	27.21
IC 5135.....	21 48 19.5	−34 57 05	0.016151	16.36	26.19
NGC 7469.....	23 03 15.6	+08 52 26	0.016317	26.49	36.15
Mrk 331.....	23 51 26.8	+20 35 10	0.018483	18.30	23.44

NOTES.—Units of right ascension are hours, minutes, and seconds, and units of declination are degrees, arcminutes, and arcseconds. Given by NASA Extragalactic Database (NED).

Accurate knowledge of the emissivity index, which characterizes the frequency dependence of the absorption coefficient of interstellar dust, is crucial for determining important large-scale characteristics of dusty galaxies, such as dust temperature, dust mass, and the existence of multiple dust components. Given that the emissivity index is a complex function of various grain properties, its estimate also offers insights into grain properties, particularly grain structure (Seki & Yamamoto 1980; Yang 2006) and formation of ice mantles (Aannestad 1975). While theory predicts β values of 1 or 2 for interstellar dust in the long-wavelength limit, observations of astronomical objects in the FIR/submm have revealed a wide range of β values. Lower emissivity indices have been observed in active galactic environments, such as circumstellar disks and warm molecular clouds, as well as large-scale dust distributions in infrared luminous dusty galaxies (Knapp et al. 1993; Blake et al. 1996; Dunne et al. 2000). Far-IR emissivity that has a frequency dependence steeper than quadratic has also been observed in some galactic sources (Schwartz 1982; Lis et al. 1998). In particular, Dupac et al. (2003) reported a wide range in β values, as well as a negative temperature dependence of β , as observed in a large sample of galactic molecular clouds.

2. SAMPLE AND OBSERVATIONS

Sources in this sample are mostly selected from the LIRG sample presented by Wynn-William & Becklin (1993, hereafter WWB93). The WWB93 sample, not being a strictly defined complete sample, includes 19 sources that were selected from the *IRAS* Point Source Catalog for their high luminosities and high flux densities at 12 and 25 μm . Sixteen sources here are selected from the WWB93 sample by requiring $S_{100\mu\text{m}} \geq 20$ Jy. In addition, two ULIRGs, UGC 5101 and Mrk 231, are added to the list to better understand nearby infrared galaxies at the high-luminosity end. In total, our sample includes 18 nearby LIRGs in the redshift range of $0.003 \leq z \leq 0.042$. This sample, with its selection based on high luminosity and high flux densities at the *IRAS* wave bands is likely to have an enhanced fraction of galaxies that are more active and contain warmer dust as compared to the bulk of the submillimeter population at similar redshifts. A wealth of photometry

data at FIR/submm/mm wavelengths is available from the literature for a majority of the sources, which enables us to estimate both dust temperature and emissivity index in the SED fitting. Tables 1 and 2 list the sample and the existing FIR/submm/mm photometric data.

The observations were made during a series of SHARC-II (Dowell et al. 2003) observing runs from 2003 January to 2004 September at the CSO under moderate weather conditions ($0.07 \leq \tau_{225\text{ GHz}} \leq 0.10$). Integration time varied from source to source, depending on the brightness of each source at 350 μm and the atmospheric opacity and sky variability. On average, 0.5 hr of integration time was spent on each source. All measurements were made by scanning the bolometer array in a Lissajous pattern centered on each source; scans were taken without chopping the secondary mirror. Pointing and calibration scans were taken on an hourly basis on strong submillimeter sources. The absolute calibration was found to be accurate within 20% error margin. Raw data were reduced using the software package CRUSH (Kovács 2006) to obtain a 350 μm map and flux density for each source. All of the 18 sources were clearly detected at levels of $S/N \geq 10$, and Figure 1 shows the SHARC-II 350 μm maps clipped to have at least half of the maximum exposure. Table 3 lists the 350 μm flux densities and flux errors.

3. SPECTRAL FITS AND DERIVED QUANTITIES

We adopt the single-temperature, optically-thin FIR/submm SED model, as given by equation (1). A flux error at a uniform 20% is assumed at each data point, so each flux measurement is weighted equally in the nonlinear least-squares fit. All but four galaxies (NGC 2388, NGC 4194, NGC 4818, and NGC 5135) in the sample have photometry data at FIR/submm/mm wavelengths in addition to 60, 100, and 350 μm ; thus the dust temperature and emissivity index can both be treated as free parameters. However, the SED fitting procedure introduces a significant degeneracy between the estimated values of T_d and β (Blain et al. 2003), a problem that persists even when the frequency sampling of the FIR/submm SED is highly redundant. To achieve redundancy in the cases of NGC 2388, NGC 4194, NGC 4818, and

TABLE 2
OTHER FIR/SUBMM/MM PHOTOMETRIC DATA AVAILABLE FOR THE LOCAL LIRG SAMPLE

Source Name	FIR/submm/mm Photometric Data (Jy)
NGC 520.....	$S_{850 \mu\text{m}} = 0.325 \pm 0.050$, $S_{1.3 \text{ mm}}^{(a)} = 0.050 \pm 0.025$
NGC 1614.....	$S_{850 \mu\text{m}} = 0.219 \pm 0.032$, $S_{1.3 \text{ mm}}^{(a)} = 0.011 \pm 0.003$
NGC 2339.....	$S_{450 \mu\text{m}} = 0.849 \pm 0.078$, $S_{800 \mu\text{m}} = 0.079 \pm 0.015$, $S_{1.3 \text{ mm}} = 0.019 \pm 0.002$
NGC 2388.....	...
NGC 2623.....	$S_{850 \mu\text{m}} = 0.091 \pm 0.014$
UGC 5101.....	$S_{450 \mu\text{m}} = 1.43 \pm 0.304$, $S_{800 \mu\text{m}} = 0.143 \pm 0.025$, $S_{1.1 \text{ mm}} = 0.068 \pm 0.012$
NGC 4102.....	$S_{450 \mu\text{m}}^{(b)} = 1.79 \pm 0.450$, $S_{800 \mu\text{m}}^{(b)} = 0.212 \pm 0.028$, $S_{1.1 \text{ mm}}^{(b)} = 0.055 \pm 0.007$, $S_{1.3 \text{ mm}}^{(b)} = 0.050 \pm 0.006$
NGC 4194.....	...
NGC 4418.....	$S_{450 \mu\text{m}}^{(b)} = 1.34 \pm 0.350$, $S_{800 \mu\text{m}}^{(b)} = 0.240 \pm 0.020$, $S_{850 \mu\text{m}} = 0.255 \pm 0.037$, $S_{1.1 \text{ mm}}^{(b)} = 0.085 \pm 0.009$
	$S_{1.3 \text{ mm}}^{(b)} = 0.072 \pm 0.012$
Mrk 231	$S_{120 \mu\text{m}} = 24.32 \pm 30\%$, $S_{150 \mu\text{m}} = 14.74 \pm 30\%$, $S_{180 \mu\text{m}} = 9.75 \pm 30\%$, $S_{200 \mu\text{m}} = 6.88 \pm 30\%$
	$S_{450 \mu\text{m}} = 0.513 \pm 0.134$, $S_{800 \mu\text{m}}^{(b)} = 0.085 \pm 0.012$, $S_{1.1 \text{ mm}}^{(b)} = 0.045 \pm 0.012$, $S_{1.25 \text{ mm}} = 0.029 \pm 0.008$
	$S_{1.3 \text{ mm}}^{(b)} = 0.038 \pm 0.008$
NGC 4818.....	...
NGC 5135.....	...
Mrk 273	$S_{120 \mu\text{m}} = 19.99 \pm 30\%$, $S_{150 \mu\text{m}} = 13.10 \pm 30\%$, $S_{180 \mu\text{m}} = 8.69 \pm 30\%$, $S_{200 \mu\text{m}} = 7.40 \pm 30\%$
	$S_{450 \mu\text{m}} = 0.707 \pm 0.200$, $S_{800 \mu\text{m}} = 0.084 \pm 0.022$, $S_{1.1 \text{ mm}} = 0.051 \pm 0.013$, $S_{1.3 \text{ mm}}^{(a)} = 0.020 \pm 0.002$
NGC 6000.....	$S_{450 \mu\text{m}}^{(b)} = 1.460 \pm 0.650$, $S_{800 \mu\text{m}}^{(b)} = 0.115 \pm 0.027$, $S_{1.1 \text{ mm}}^{(b)} = 0.055 \pm 0.008$, $S_{1.3 \text{ mm}}^{(b)} = 0.018 \pm 0.008$
NGC 6240.....	$S_{120 \mu\text{m}} = 25.90 \pm 30\%$, $S_{150 \mu\text{m}} = 18.91 \pm 30\%$, $S_{180 \mu\text{m}} = 12.73 \pm 30\%$, $S_{200 \mu\text{m}} = 9.00 \pm 30\%$
	$S_{450 \mu\text{m}} = 1.00 \pm 30\%$, $S_{850 \mu\text{m}} = 0.150 \pm 30\%$, $S_{1.3 \text{ mm}}^{(a)} = 0.021 \pm 0.010$
IC 5135.....	$S_{1.3 \text{ mm}} = 0.033 \pm 0.004$
NGC 7469.....	$S_{850 \mu\text{m}} = 0.192 \pm 0.027$
Mrk 331	$S_{850 \mu\text{m}} = 0.132 \pm 0.025$

NOTE.— Given by NED unless noted otherwise.

REFERENCES.—(a) Benford 1999; (b) Roche & Chandler 1993.

NGC 5135, where the sampling of the SED is limited to three wavelengths, we assume $\beta = 1.5$, a value most commonly assumed and observed.

The best-fitting dust temperature has a sample median and standard deviation of $T_d = 39.4 \pm 7.9$ K and ranges within $29.2 \leq T_d \leq 62.9$ K, with two galaxies (NGC 4418 and Mrk 231) showing $T_d \geq 50$ K. The emissivity index ranges within $0.9 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$ and has a sample median of $\beta = 1.6 \pm 0.3$. The FIR/submm SED fits of our local LIRG sample are shown in Figure 2; the distributions of T_d and β are shown in Figure 3.

The global FIR luminosity (L_{FIR}) and dust mass (M_d) are calculated from

$$L_{\text{FIR}} = 4\pi D_L^2 \int_{40 \mu\text{m}}^{1000 \mu\text{m}} S_\nu d\nu, \quad (4)$$

$$M_d = \frac{S_\nu D_L^2}{\kappa_\nu B_\nu(T_d)}, \quad (5)$$

where D_L is the luminosity distance, and $\kappa_\nu \equiv 3Q_\nu/4a\rho$ is the dust mass absorption coefficient, varying as $\propto \nu^\beta$. We adopt dust parameters given by Hildebrand (1983): $Q_{125 \mu\text{m}} = 7.5 \times 10^{-4}$, $\rho = 3.0 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$, and $a = 0.1 \mu\text{m}$, which implies $\kappa_{125 \mu\text{m}} = 1.875 (\text{kg m}^{-2})^{-1}$. While there is significant uncertainty associated with κ due to the lack of accurate knowledge of interstellar dust properties, L_{FIR} is tightly constrained when a satisfactory SED fitting is achieved. The L_{FIR} and M_d values inferred for our local LIRG sample range within $10^{9.9} \leq L_{\text{FIR}} \leq 10^{12.2} L_\odot$ and $10^{6.1} \leq M_d \leq 10^{8.3} M_\odot$ and have sample medians of $L_{\text{FIR}} = 10^{11.2 \pm 0.6} L_\odot$ and $M_d = 10^{7.3 \pm 0.6} M_\odot$. Thus, our sample spans more than 2 orders of magnitude in both FIR luminosity and dust mass. Table 3 lists the fitted values of T_d and β , along with the L_{FIR} and M_d estimates for our local LIRG sample.

4. T_d - β RELATION

4.1. Correlation Coefficient & Simulations

A negative correlation between the dust temperature and emissivity index clearly emerges from the T_d - β scatter plot for our local LIRG sample (Fig. 4). Note that, in the investigation of the T_d - β relation, we only include the 14 sources for which the frequency sampling is sufficient (≥ 4) to allow simultaneous estimates of T_d and β . The nonparametric correlation coefficient³ between the dust temperature and emissivity index estimated for our 14 local LIRGs is calculated to have a value of $\rho_{\text{np}} = -0.79$, and it is nonzero at the significance level of $(1 - p)$, where $p \sim 7.43 \times 10^{-4}$ (Yang 2006). We thus conclude the inverse T_d - β correlation observed in our local LIRG sample is statistically significant.

However, we note that fitted values of T_d and β are simultaneously obtained from the SED fitting, in which a strong and negative T_d - β degeneracy is present and could potentially introduce an artificial inverse T_d - β correlation. We address this problem by repeatedly performing SED fittings on simulated photometric data. Our simulation method, described as follows, is a modification and extension of the simulation procedure performed by Dupac et al. (2001). First, we are primarily concerned with the nonparametric T_d - β correlation coefficient; second, the effects of the T_d - β degeneracy on the observed T_d - β correlation can be accurately quantified.

Two sets of independent, uniformly distributed random numbers are generated within the ranges of 20–60 and 1.0–2.5, and they are taken to be the simulated values of T_d and β , respectively,

³ Without prior knowledge of the true distributions of dust temperature and emissivity index, the nonparametric (rank) correlation coefficient between these two variables provides a more robust correlation test than the parametric correlation coefficient (Press 1999).

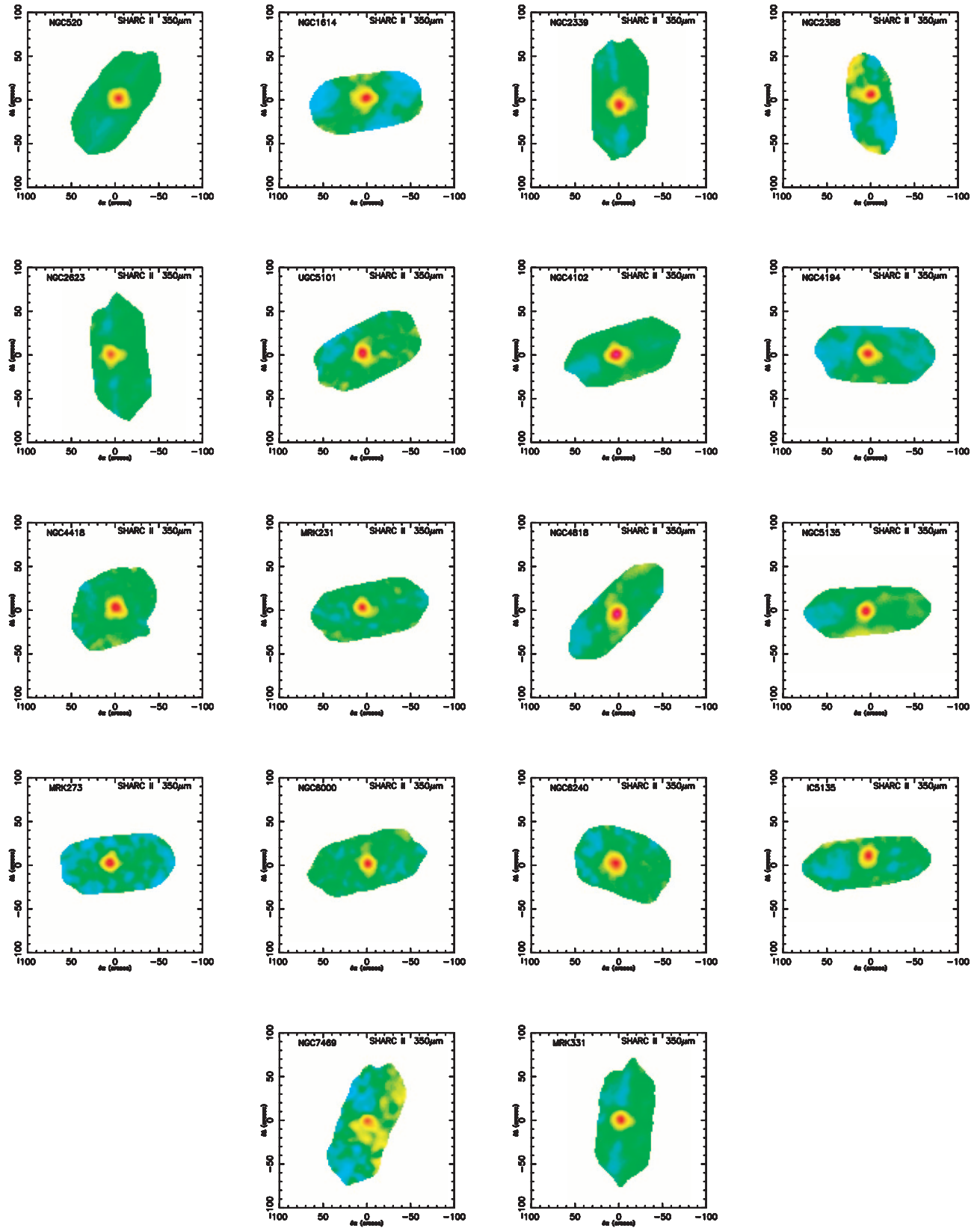


FIG. 1.— SHARC-II 350 μm maps of galaxies in the local LIRG sample. In each map the green plane represents the part of bolometer array, which has at least half of the maximum exposure, and the red peak in the middle of the array indicates a detected source ($S/N \geq 10$).

TABLE 3
350 μm FLUX AND DERIVED PROPERTIES FOR THE LOCAL LIRG SAMPLE

Source Name	S_{350} (Jy)	σ_{350} (Jy)	T_d (K)	$\sigma(T_d)$ (K)	β	$\sigma(\beta)$	$\log L_{\text{FIR}}$ (L_\odot)	$\log M_d$ (M_\odot)
NGC 520.....	3.01	0.02	37.8	4.3	1.5	0.2	10.76	6.94
NGC 1614.....	1.18	0.05	40.7	5.0	1.9	0.2	11.37	7.30
NGC 2339.....	1.78	0.04	32.1	3.2	2.1	0.2	10.54	7.01
NGC 2388.....	1.87	0.10	37.9	3.2	1.5	...	11.03	7.21
NGC 2623.....	1.43	0.05	41.8	6.6	1.6	0.3	11.38	7.32
UGC 5101.....	2.20	0.10	34.1	3.6	1.6	0.2	11.86	8.27
NGC 4102.....	4.38	0.04	32.1	3.0	2.1	0.2	10.10	6.56
NGC 4194.....	1.19	0.03	45.3	4.7	1.5	...	10.68	6.47
NGC 4418.....	2.03	0.07	62.9	12.4	0.9	0.2	10.81	6.14
Mrk 231.....	1.73	0.07	51.3	5.6	1.4	0.1	12.24	7.79
NGC 4818.....	2.73	0.05	36.0	3.2	1.5	...	9.91	6.20
NGC 5135.....	3.80	0.07	33.0	2.6	1.5	...	11.10	7.59
Mrk 273.....	1.34	0.08	42.7	4.0	1.6	0.1	11.98	7.88
NGC 6000.....	4.26	0.20	29.2	2.6	2.4	0.2	10.81	7.48
NGC 6240.....	1.10	0.05	39.4	3.4	1.7	0.1	11.64	7.69
IC 5135.....	2.16	0.10	35.5	3.9	1.6	0.2	11.17	7.49
NGC 7469.....	2.23	0.20	42.3	6.9	1.3	0.3	11.35	7.31
Mrk 331.....	1.69	0.04	41.5	6.5	1.4	0.3	11.29	7.30

NOTES.— $\beta = 1.5$ is assumed in the SED fitting for NGC 2388, NGC 4194, NGC 4818, and NGC 5135. The luminosity distance used in the calculation of the FIR luminosity is derived from the redshift by assuming a flat cosmology with $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $\Omega_m = 0.30$, and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.70$.

for each of the 14 local LIRGs. Furthermore, we assume flux errors to be normally distributed and at a constant level of 20% at all wavelengths.

Using the simulated values of T_d , β and measurement errors, simulated photometric data are calculated at all FIR/submm wavelengths, where observed data are available for each of the 14 sources in our local LIRG sample. SED fitting of the simulated photometric data for each source follows, yielding fitted values of T_d and β . We calculate nonparametric correlation coefficients between the “real” (simulated) as well as the fitted values of T_d and β in the sample.

The above steps are repeated many times ($\sim 10,000$), and the probability distribution function of the nonparametric correlation coefficient between the dust temperature and emissivity index is thereby established. As shown in Figure 5, ρ_{np} of the simulated T_d - β show a distribution well approximated by a Gaussian function $\sim N(-0.01, 0.29)$, as can be expected from the central limit theorem given that the simulated T_d and β are independent random variables. By contrast, ρ_{np} of the fitted T_d - β roughly follows a Gaussian distribution $\sim N(-0.14, 0.29)$, suggesting the SED fitting procedure typically introduces a nonparametric T_d - β correlation coefficient at the level of $\rho_{\text{np}} \sim -0.14$, when T_d and β are in fact uncorrelated, given the SED frequency samplings of our 14 local LIRGs in the FIR/submm/mm. Under the normal distribution $\sim N(-0.14, 0.29)$, the observed T_d - β correlation coefficient, $\rho_{\text{np}} = -0.79$, is significant at the level of $(1 - p^*)$, where $p^* \sim 1.20 \times 10^{-2}$. Hence, we deem the negative T_d - β degeneracy in the SED fitting insufficient to explain the inverse T_d - β correlation observed in the local LIRG sample, and conclude that the observed inverse T_d - β correlation is real.

4.2. Functional Fitting

Based on physical considerations, particularly equation (3), we fit the inverse T_d - β correlation observed in our local LIRG sample using the function

$$T_d = c_1^{1/(c_2+\beta)}. \quad (6)$$

The best fit to equation (6) is

$$T_d = (9.86 \times 10^9)^{1/(4.63+\beta)}, \quad (7)$$

which provides a good fit to the dust temperatures and emissivity indices estimated for our 14 local LIRGs, as shown in Figure 4. We also try two alternative functional forms in which the dust emissivity index is a power or hyperbolic function of the dust temperature, i.e.,

$$\beta = c_1 T_d^{c_2}, \quad (8)$$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{c_1 + c_2 T_d}. \quad (9)$$

The best fits to equations (8) and (9) are $\beta = (82.37)T_d^{-1.07}$ and $\beta = 62.89/T_d$, respectively, and yield T_d - β curves nearly identical to equation (7). Thus, we consider equation (7) as the best description of the T_d - β relation observed in the local LIRG sample. This T_d - β relation is also tested in the SED fittings of a ULIRG sample at intermediate redshifts ($0.1 \lesssim z \lesssim 1.0$; Yang 2006), for which the incorporation of the T_d - β relation (eq. [7]) leads to reasonable SED fits for the vast majority of the sources. This provides strong support for an extension of the T_d - β relation, as derived for our local LIRG sample to dusty galaxies in the more distant universe.

For comparative purposes we also plot the T_d - β relation given by Dupac et al. (2003) as derived from multiband submillimeter observations of a large sample of molecular clouds in the Galaxy (Fig. 4). These authors reported a wide range of T_d and β values estimated from SED fittings and found an inverse T_d - β correlation best fitted by a hyperbolic function $\beta = 1/[(0.4 + 0.08)T_d]$. Clearly, the T_d - β correlation seen in the galactic molecular clouds is significantly different from, in fact much flatter than, that observed in our local LIRG sample, despite the agreement in qualitative trend. We note that the T_d and β estimates for the molecular clouds are sometimes given by SED fittings without flux measurements at wavelengths shortward of the SED peaks, which

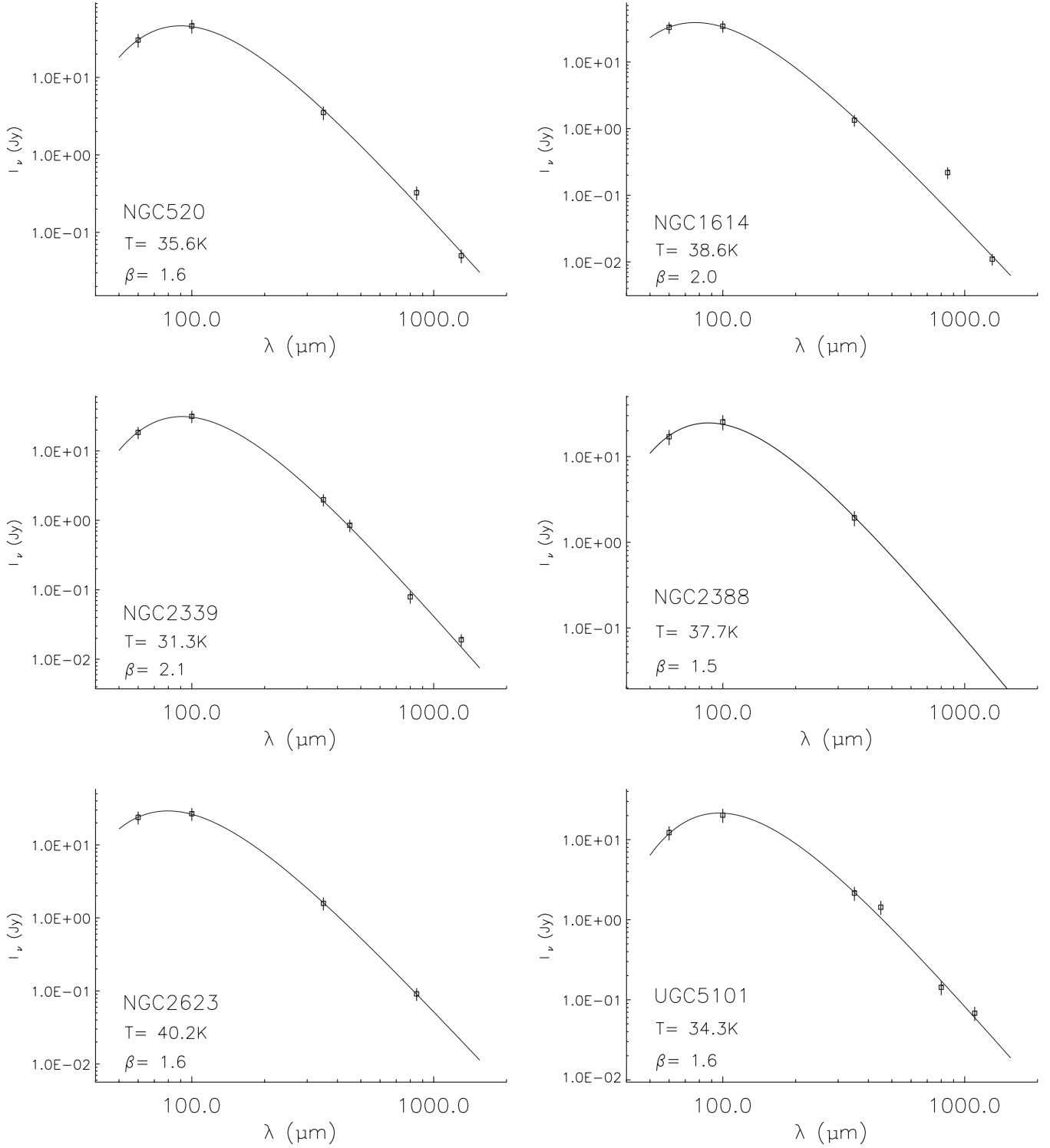


FIG. 2.—SED fits for galaxies in the local LIRG sample.

would otherwise have greatly improved the accuracy of the T_d estimates. The difference in the shape of the observed T_d - β correlations, as derived for astronomical samples of differing nature, scales, and environments, is intriguing. We argue that variations in the T_d - β relation are not unreasonable, given that various physical characteristics, such as the radiation field, grain properties, and grain distributions, could all impact the large-scale dust temperature and emissivity index, and thus the way in which T_d and β relate to each other. There is considerable observational challenge currently facing us in the task of achieving sufficient

FIR/submm/mm SED samplings for a large number of dusty objects over a wide range in redshift, physical scale, and environment. Dedicated observational efforts in the future would allow us to more precisely quantify the T_d - β relation, discover its full range, and investigate its evolution.

4.3. Laboratory Results

Laboratory measurements of the absorption coefficients of interstellar grain analogs at submm/mm wavelengths have revealed an intrinsic temperature dependence of grain absorption

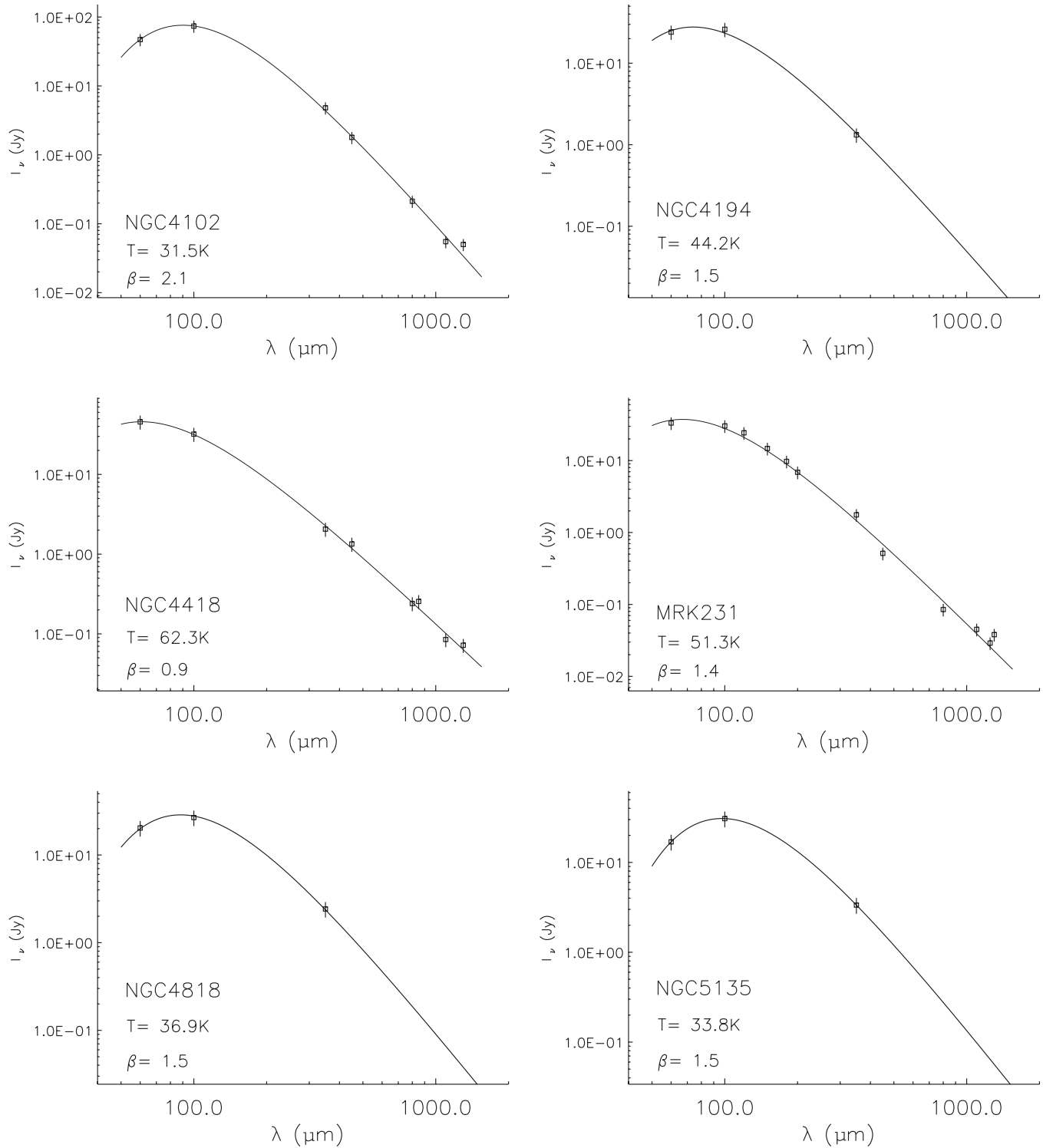


FIG. 2—Continued

coefficient and emissivity index (Agladze et al. 1996; Mennella et al. 1998). Agladze et al. (1996) measured absorption spectra of crystalline and amorphous grains at wavelengths ranging between $700\ \mu\text{m}$ and $2.9\ \text{mm}$ at temperatures between 1.2 and $30\ \text{K}$. The emissivity index was found to range between 1.2 and 2.5 and show a negative temperature dependence for amorphous grains at temperatures above $10\ \text{K}$. Mennella et al. (1998) measured absorption coefficients of crystalline and amorphous dust analog grains between $20\ \mu\text{m}$ and $2\ \text{mm}$ over the temperature range 24 – $295\ \text{K}$. The temperature and wavelength domains covered in

this set of laboratory experiments are probably more relevant for understanding astronomical observations at FIR/submm wavelengths. The emissivity index, as well as its temperature dependence, was found to be sensitive to grain material and grain structure, and variations in the absorption coefficient and emissivity index were found to be more prominent in amorphous grains than in crystalline grains. These authors found a monotonic increase of the absorption coefficient with dust temperature, while the emissivity index was found to range from 0.5 to 2.3 and decrease as the dust temperature increases.

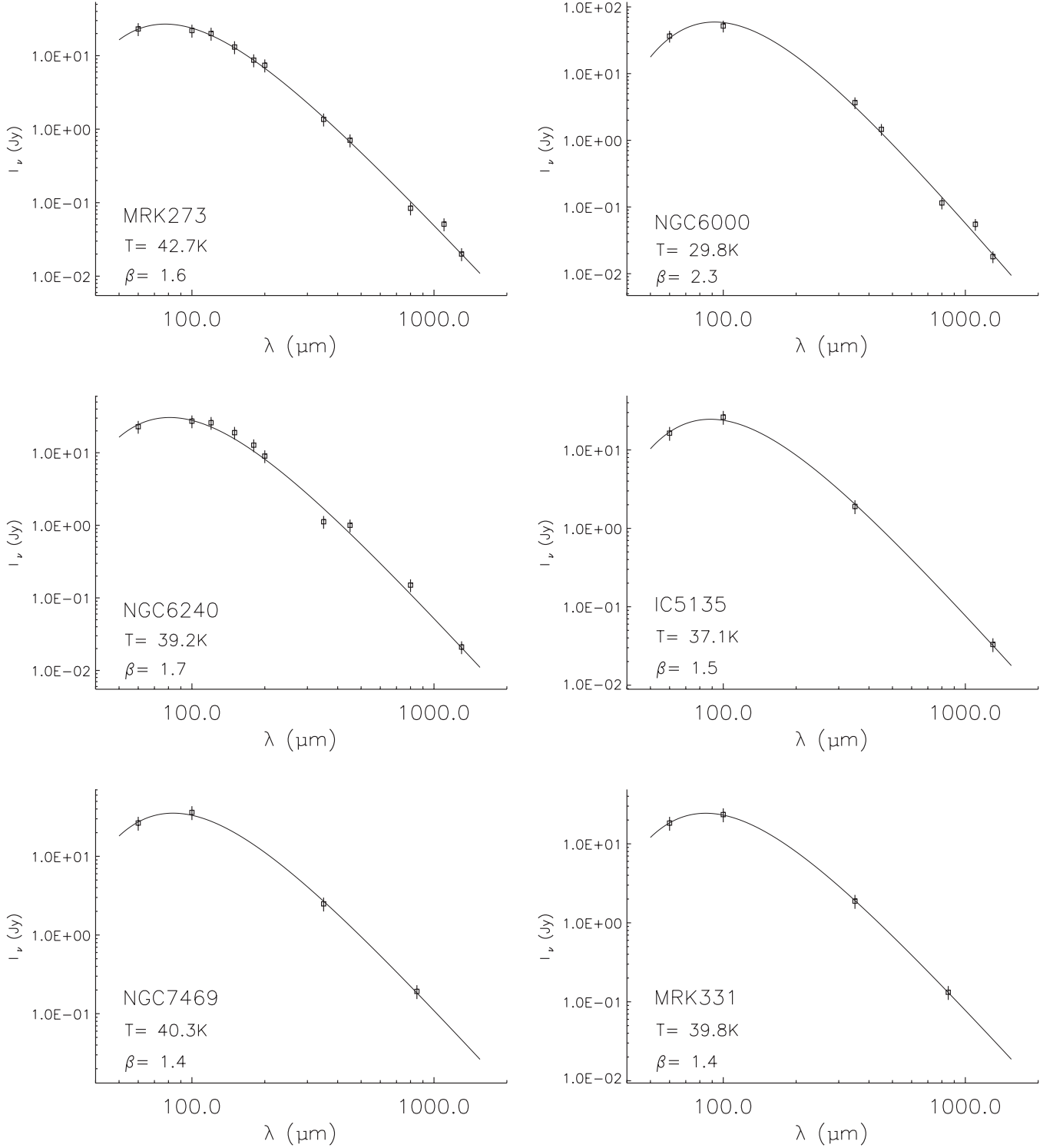


FIG. 2—Continued

4.4. Explanations

We conclude the inverse T_d - β correlation observed in our local LIRG sample is statistically significant and physically real and offer three possible explanations.

1. Equation (3) tells us that the equilibrium dust temperature displays a negative dependence on the emissivity index for a given radiation field and grain material.

2. The grain emissivity index has intrinsic negative temperature dependence, as evidenced by laboratory measurements (§ 4.3). This effect can be understood by considering the Schlömann (1964) model, which treats an amorphous solid as an ionic crystal with a random charge distribution. Within this framework, the absorption spectrum is dominated by photon-to-phonon coupling at all frequencies. We argue that the observed negative temperature dependence of grain emissivity index

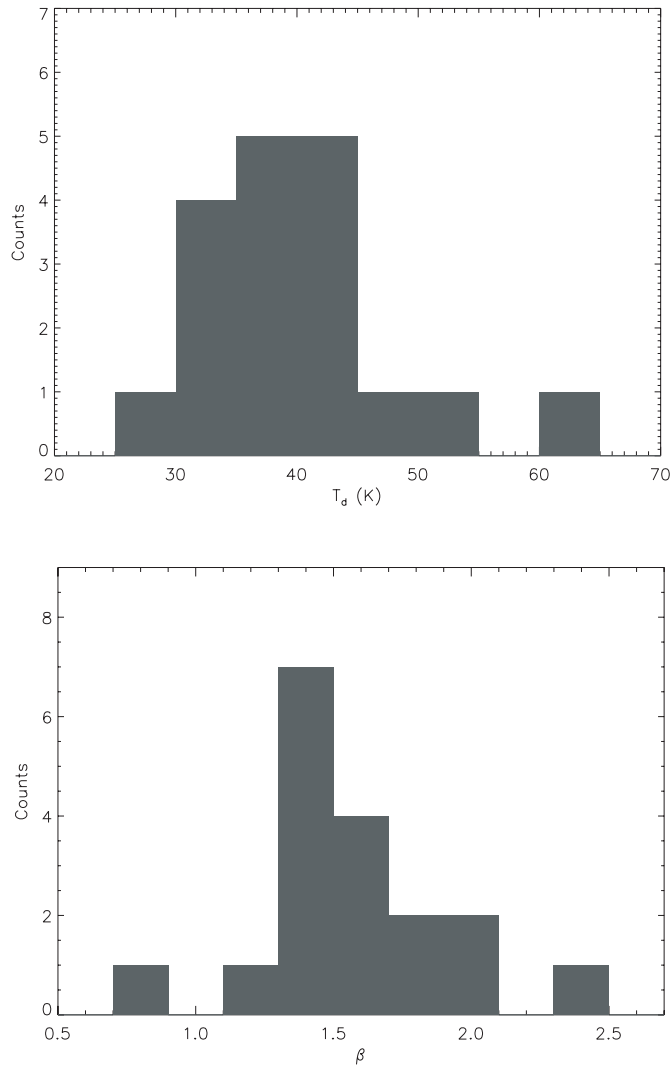


FIG. 3.—Histograms of T_d and β derived for the local LIRG sample.

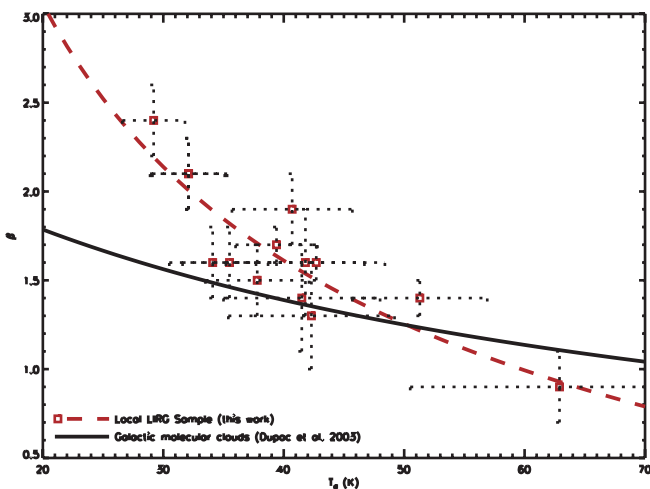


FIG. 4.—Inverse T_d - β correlation observed in our local LIRG sample when the FIR/submm/mm SEDs are sampled at no less than four wavelengths. The dashed line represents the best fit to the T_d and β values derived for the 14 local LIRGs. For comparison, the T_d - β correlation derived for the galactic molecular cloud sample (Dupac et al. 2003) is shown by the solid line.

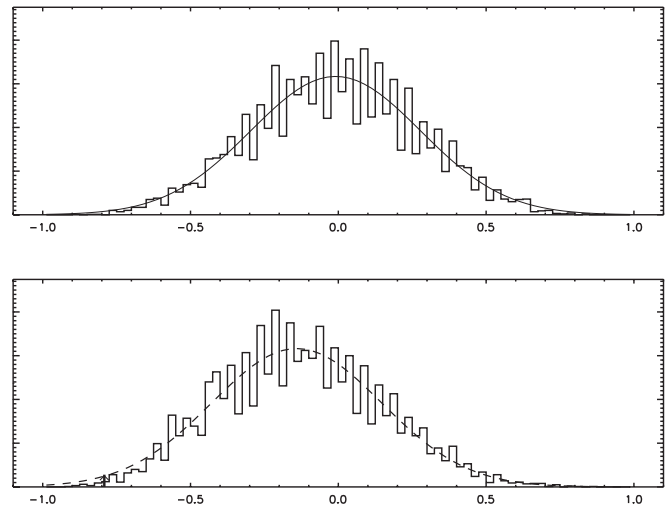


FIG. 5.—(a) The distribution of ρ_{np} calculated for the uncorrelated, simulated T_d - β is well approximated by a Gaussian function $\sim N(-0.01, 0.29)$, as shown by the solid line. (b) The distribution of ρ_{np} calculated for the fitted T_d - β from SED fittings of the simulated photometric data is well approximated by a Gaussian function $\sim N(-0.14, 0.29)$, as shown by the dashed line. Under this distribution, the ρ_{np} of the fitted T_d - β from SED fittings of the observed photometric data is clearly significant at a value of $\rho_{np} = -0.79$ (marked by the arrow).

is attributed to the decreasing grain dimension (D) at higher temperatures (i.e., grain structure becomes more “open”),⁴ which results in a flatter frequency dependence of the phonon mode density, and consequently lower emissivity indices at higher dust temperatures (Yang 2006).

3. An inverse T_d - β relation can be caused by mixtures of nonuniform grain populations, particularly those involving very small grains or grains covered with ice mantles. The β values as high as 3.5 have been predicted for dust grains covered with ice mantles (Aannestad 1975), whereas very small grains are expected to have $\beta \sim 1$ (Seki & Yamamoto 1980). At the same time, low dust temperatures favor formation of ice mantles and lead to strong emission at longer wavelengths, while high dust temperatures (or temperature fluctuations) in very small grains prohibit accretion of ice mantles and give rise to strong emission at shorter wavelengths. As a result, the dust temperature and emissivity index observed in the large scale tend to move in the direction of low T_d -high β when the overall dust emission is dominated by that of cold dust possibly covered with ice mantles, while T_d and β shift in the direction of high T_d -low β when very small grains dominate the overall emission.

4.5. Applications

A T_d - β relation, if established over a wide range of dusty galaxies, would be extremely useful for modeling their observed FIR/submm SEDs, as it effectively reduces the number of variables (therefore the number of required flux measurements) by one in the SED fitting. This effect is especially desirable for studying faint, distant submillimeter sources and interpreting results from single submillimeter wavelength imaging and deep field surveys, given the considerable observational challenge typically faced by deep submillimeter observations. For a given photometric data set, a T_d - β relation either allows the estimate of one more parameter in the SED fitting, or improves the uncertainties

⁴ Here we adopt the concept of fractal dimension (Hausdorff dimension), defined as $D \equiv \log_{P/p} N$, where P/p is the size ratio of self-similar fractal objects, and N is the number of smaller units that can fit into the larger unit. Structures with lower fractal dimension are more “open.”

associated with the fitted variables, as exemplified by the SED modeling of a sample of intermediate-redshift ULIRGs (Yang 2006), for which the sampling of the FIR/submm SED is limited to three wavelengths. By using the T_d - β relation, both the dust temperature and emissivity index can be fitted, which represents a major advance over the more conventional and commonly utilized SED modeling method, which without the application of a T_d - β relation, would only fit for one of the two very important parameters.

5. CONCLUSION

We have observed and detected 18 local LIRGs ($0.003 \leq z \leq 0.042$) at 350 μm , using the SHARC-II camera at the CSO. The acquired 350 μm data, in combination with preexisting FIR/submm/mm photometric data, lead to accurate estimates of SED properties of these galaxies. We find sample medians of dust temperature ($T_d = 39.4 \pm 7.9$ K), emissivity index ($\beta = 1.6 \pm 0.3$),

FIR luminosity ($L_{\text{FIR}} = 10^{11.2 \pm 0.6} L_\odot$), and dust mass ($M_d = 10^{7.3 \pm 0.6} M_\odot$). An inverse T_d - β correlation, best described by $T_d = (9.86 \times 10^9)^{1/(4.63+\beta)}$, is established for our local LIRG sample. This effect is most likely caused by intrinsic interdependence between the dust temperature and emissivity index as physical parameters, as revealed by laboratory measurements (§ 4.3), as well as variations in grain properties in the ISM. The establishment of a T_d - β relation is extremely useful in the FIR/submm SED fittings of dusty galaxies, as it serves to effectively reduce the number of free parameters by one in the SED function.

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